

## ATRACTOCERUS BRASILIENSIS IN CUBA

Two recent references in the BULLETIN attest to the interest of the peculiar genus *Atractocerus* (Oct., 1955; Febr., 1956). The present note concerns the distribution of the widespread species, *A. brasiliensis* Lepeletier and Serville, 1825, which occurs from Mexico all the way to Argentina and Chile. Although it occurs also in the West Indies, for some reason it is not given as occurring there in the Blackwelder, 1945, Checklist (pt. 3, p. 408). It was recorded as "rare in Cuba," by Gundlach in 1887, under the family Lymexylonidae; from Cuba and Porto Rico by Leng and Mutchler in 1914, in their preliminary list of the Coleoptera of the West Indies, under the family Ptinidae; and from Jamaica by the same author in their supplement of 1917. R. B. Selander, Urbana, Illinois, has seen a specimen from Barbados (in litt).

On July 3, 1956, a dark female of this species came to a light on the Peninsula of Guanahacabibes in extreme western Cuba, in the province of Pinar del Rio. The tip of this peninsula is only about 100 miles distant from Yucatan, Mexico. The specimen was taken near a bay called Ensenada de Corrientes in the dogtooth limestone area which is covered by a dense hardwood forest. The author was in the company of Ing. Fernando de Zayas, chief of the Bureau of Plant Inspection of Havana, who knew the species and had already collected it in many parts of the island. He tells me (in litt.) that he has this species from Pan de Guajaibón and Viñales in Pinar del Rio, from Gran Piedra and Sierra del Cristal in Oriente, from Cumanayagua in Las Villas, and from Sierra de Cubitas in Camaguey; he believes it occurs in all the provinces; he has collected it at light only. Barber (1952, p. 165) says that this genus "flies like a hawk moth, and in some species vertical and horizontal rudders have developed in the form of a large mid-ventral lamella and lateral expansions of segments 8 and 9 of the very flexible abdomen."

There are 17 specimens of *A. brasiliensis* in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, all being females except three. Lacordaire in 1830 remarked on the much greater rarity of the males. It might be of interest to record here the localities and dates of these specimens: Nova Teutonia and Corupa in Santa Catarina, Brazil, December, November, January; Colombia, no locality; San José, Costa Rica, August; Guanahacabibes Peninsula in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, July; Chiquimula in Chiquimula, Guatemala, July; Tamazunchale in San Luis Potosi, May, and Rio Coatzacoalcos in Veracruz, June, both in Mexico; El Volcan, Chiriqui, Panama, February, and Iquitos, Peru. Gorham in the *Biologia Centrali-Americana* (vol. 3, pt. 2) had seen examples from Cordova, Tuxtla, and Isabal in Mexico; Dueñas, Pantaleon, and Torola in Guatemala; Chontales in Nicaragua, and the Volcan of Chiriqui in Panama.

The record from Tamazunchale appears to be the most northern one. The most northern record for the genus is of *A. gracilicornis* Schenckling, 1914, based on an insect taken in 1851 with the label "California," if this is rightly a member of this genus (it is not listed in Blackwelder's Catalogue).

Blackwelder lists three other species from the New World, *procerus* (French Guiana, Brasil), *termiticola* (Brasil), and *valdiviana* (Chile). In 1941 Araujo (Livro de Homenagem à R. F. d'Almeida) described *A. almeidai* from Vila Nova, Bahia, Brasil, which he suspected might be the male of *procerus*, a species he had not seen. There are two excellent drawings and three photographs of *almeidai*. —PATRICIA VAURIE, *American Museum of Natural History*.